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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND SANITARY INSPECTOR.

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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CASTLE WARD.

ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND SANITARY INSPECTOR

1947.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health	Harald J. Nicholson M.B.Ch.B.
Sanitary, Housing, Meat Inspector.	E. W. Strachan M.R.San.I.M.S.I.A.
Sanitary, Meat Inspector Additional	Mr. G.E. Hardy. M.S.I.A.
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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH 1947.

Mr. Chairman, Lady, & Gentlemen,

I herewith beg to submit my Annual Report on the health of the district for the year ending 31st December, 1947.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	82, 827.
Population	12, 830.
Number of inhabited houses	3, 727.
Rateable Value	£99, 776.
Sum represented by a penny rate	£413. 4. 5d.

The two main occupations in the area are coal mining and agriculture, the former being in the eastern part of the district.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

	M.	F.	
Legitimate	95	81	
Illegitimate	6	6	
	101	87	= 188

Birth Rate:- 14.6 per 1,000 per annum compared with 16.4 per 1,000 per annum in 1946. Birth Rate for England and Wales in 1947 was 20.5 per 1,000 per annum.

STILL BIRTHS.

	M.	F.	
Legitimate	2	-	
Illegitimate	-	1	
	2.	1	= 3.

Total Rate (Live and Still) 14.9 per 1,000 per annum compared with 17.2 per 1,000 per annum in 1946.

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths registered during the year was 148 compared with 135 in 1946.

Death Rate:- 11.5 per 1,000 per annum compared with 10.7 per 1,000 per annum in 1946.

The death rate for England and Wales in 1947 was 12.0 per 1,000 per annum.

The three main causes of deaths were:-

Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions.	19
Tuberculosis	16
Heart Disease.	47.
	82

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis and Other Puerperal Causes.

- NIL -

Infantile Mortality.

The total number of deaths under one year of age was 8 compared with 7 in 1946.

	M.	F.	
Legitimate	5.	3.	- 8
Illegitimate	-	-	

Death Rate of all Infants under one year in England and Wales per 1,000 Live Births was 41 compared with 43 in 1946.

Deaths from Cancer:-	There were 16 deaths from this cause.	
" "	Typhoid Fever.	Nil
" "	Measles	Nil
" "	Whooping Cough	1
" "	Diarrhoea	1
" ("	Tuberculosis (Respiratory & Other forms)	16.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. Laboratory Facilities.

The examination and analysis of Clinical Material (Sputum, Swabs, etc.,) Milk and water is under the control of the County Council.

2. Nursing in the Home.

(A) General. Most of the district is supplied with nurses having the C.M.B. qualifications and supplied by the County Nursing Association, under the control of the County Council, the funds being provided by voluntary contributions, with the addition in some instance of small fees.

(B) Infectious Diseases. Relief nurses from the County Nursing Association when available.

3. Hospitals.

(A) Infectious Disease. West Northumberland Joint Infectious Hospital situated at Lemington; takes in cases from Newburn, Gosforth, Prudhoe, and Hexham Urban Districts, and from Hexham and Castle Ward districts. 68 beds.

(B) Smallpox. Arrangements have been made with the Earsdon Joint Hospital Board to remove and treat cases occuring in this area.

(C) Tuberculosis. Provision is made by the County Council in their sanatoria and Ponteland Emergency Hospital.

(D) General Medical and Surgical. Treated in the various Hospitals in Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

(E) Maternity. Princess Mary Maternity Hospital Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Newcastle General Hospital (abnormal cases) Lilston Hall, Corbridge and Mona Taylor Maternity Home, Stannington.

4. Ambulance Facilities.

(A) Infectious Cases. - Removed by respective Hospital Authorities.

(B) Non-Infectious and Accident Cases.

The district was served by ambulance from National Coal Board, East Walbottle Unit, Ponteland, Corbridge Branch British Red Cross Society, Dinnington Colliery, and Morpeth R.D.C., arrangements having been made with the various authorities mentioned.

PREVALANCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified	Total No. Deaths.
Smallpox	-	Nil
Scarlet Fever	10	Nil
Pneumonia	12	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	Nil
Whooping Cough	31	1
Diphtheria	2	Nil
Erysipelas	7	Nil
Measles	77	Nil
Dysentery (Sonn')	-	Nil
Malaria	-	Nil
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	1	Nil
Total Cases	145 Total	Dths. 6.

Scarlet Fever.

10 cases notified compared with 20 in 1946.

Diphtheria.

2 cases notified compared with 4 in 1946

The number of children immunised during the year was 215 compared with 301 in 1946.

I consider that the percentage of children protected in this area is satisfactory.

Tuberculosis.

Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary.	
M.	F.	M.	F.
6	1	-	1

Total 7.

School Closure.

No schools were closed during the year on account of infectious disease or other causes.

Bacteriological Examination.

	Positive	Negative	Total
Sputum for T.B.	19	40	59
Swabs for B.Diphtheria	3	20	23
Blood for Agglutination.	-	2	2
Miscellaneous specimens.	10	11	21

There are many districts which require new houses and water supplies, Dinnington Colliery being the "Black Spot" of the district. Housing at Dinnington Village and Hazlerigg is proceeding as well as supplies and labour will allow.

During the epidemic of Acute Poliomyelitis there were two suspected cases, both of which were proved negative.

A mild outbreak of food poisoning was traced to a type of cooked sausage prepared by a large distributing firm. This outbreak coincided with others in neighbouring districts, which were also traced to the same food stuff.

I would like to thank the Council for their sympathetic consideration to me. My thanks is also due to my colleagues in the department for help in the production of this report and for their assistance during the year.

I am,
Mr. Chairman, Lady & Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,

HARALD J. NICHOLSON M.B.Ch.B.
Medical Officer of Health.

Please cancel page 7 & 8 (front & back) of the Annual Report, 1947., and insert this leaf.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR. 1947.

Mr. Chairman, Lady, & Gentlemen,

I beg to present for your consideration the Annual Report of the work of the Sanitary Department.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

The Newcastle & Gateshead Water Company supply water under pressure to the Eastern part of the district. It is considered that approximately two thirds of the population are served from this source. The remainder which are spread over the western, north western, and south western part of the district rely on wells and springs, and in a few cases boreholes. A comprehensive scheme for supplying the entire area of the district with a piped water supply is under consideration.

Private Water Supplies.

The following villages are supplied by the owners of the estates:- Stannington, Belsay, Capheaton, Matfen Dalton, Berwick Hill, Ryal and Ogle.

Council Water Supplies.

The Council supplies water under pressure to the villages of:- Whalton, Stamfordham, Kirkheaton and Heddon.

During the year under review samples were taken from each of the four supplies for Chemical Analysis and Bacteriological Examination. Of the samples, all were satisfactory chemically, but bacteriologically one sample indicated slight contamination. Further check samples were taken to trace the source of contamination, and after rededial measures by the Engineer and Surveyor, final samples proved satisfactory.

No. of Samples.	Chemical Test.	No. of Samples.	Bacteriological Test.
6	Satisfactory	4	Satisfactory.
		2	Slight Contamination (B. Coli)

Total No. of Samples - 12.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There have been extensions, remodelling, and new systems complete with septic tank and filter beds laid during the year. In this connection 883 yards of drains have been tested, the works comprising of 10 extensions, 2 remodelling and 10 new drainage systems. It is pleasing to note that of the 10 new drainage systems, 5 were installed to farmhouses in conjunction with bathroom and W.Cs. In all cases where necessary, provision was made on the drainage system for the connection of the adjoining farm cottages.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

During the year there has been 13 conversions from privy ashpits to the water carriage system, all the conversions were to isolated houses.

The drainage systems in all cases satisfied the requirements of the department.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action was taken under this heading.

CLEANSING.

The work of cleansing is done by direct labour. The parishes now being serviced by this method are Ponteland, Darras Hall, Little Callerton, Heddon-on-the-Wall Whalton, West Brunton, and North Gosforth. A number of houses in the Parishes of Woolsington, Newbiggen and Prestwick are serviced by arrangement.

A team of seven men, one 7 cub. yard. refuse collector and a small Austin truck is employed on this work. The renting of garages to house these vehicles has been discontinued. Land was bought to form a "Council Yard" and a garage large enough to accommodate one ten cub.yard and two 7 cub. yard refuse collectors has been erected. This has been done with a view to the future extension of the cleansing service.

SALVAGE.

It was a common thought that after the war the necessity for the collection of salvage, e.g. waste paper, bottles, jars and scrap iron would be discontinued. The acceptance of this assumption has undoubtedly caused the falling off of the quantity now put out for collection.

There has been a slight decrease in the amount of waste paper collected this year as compared with 1946.

	Tons.	cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	£.	S.	D.
Paper and Cardboard.	33	7	-	-	212.	13.	8
Scrap Iron.	1	19.	-	-	4.	12.	8.
Rags and Sacking.		18.	3.	-	18.	5.	9.
Bones.		9.	-	-	2.	11.	9.
Bottles and Jars.		2.	1.	12¼	20.	9	1.
TOTAL -	36.	16.	0.	12¼	£258.	12.	11.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

Under the Rural Housing Survey the houses in the following nine centres of Development in the district were subject to detailed examination.

1. Dinnington Colliery
   " Village.
   Hazlerigg.
2. Heddon-on-the-Wall.
3. Ponteland.
4. Stamfordham.
5. Whalton.
6. Belsay.
7. Matfen.
8. Capheaton.
9. Woolsington.

The result of the survey is herewith appended.

Centres of Development.	Category. 1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
1. Dinnington Colliery	-	-	127	-	171
Dinnington Village.	15	44	4	25	44
Hazlerigg.	108	-	150	-	2
2. Heddon-on-the-Wall	-	6	6	32	45
3. Ponteland.	3	16	34	10	9
4. Stamfordham.	20	8	5	8	23
5. Whalton.	-	8	8	19	5
6. Belsay.	-	1	2	26	-
7. Matfen.	-	1	4	19	-
8. Capheaton.	-	-	-	22	1
9. Woolsington.	-	28	4	5	5
TOTAL -	146	112	344	166	305.

The examination of the houses in the area surrounding the nine centres is proceeding.

Although reasonable progress has been made in the execution of repairs to dwelling houses, the position of labour and materials continued to prove difficult. In this connection Building Licenses were issued on behalf of the Ministry of Works under the following headings.

Housing Maintenance	121 Licenses	£32,693 .
Increased Housing accommodation.	6 "	
Improved Housing.	29 "	
Agricultural Housing.	80 "	

In addition to the following table many works were carried out by informal action.

Nuisances dealt with & work required to be done	Verbal or written notice	Complied with
To clear choked drain or W.C.	17	17
To provide ashbins	9	9
To repair sinks or wastepipes	8	8
Defective or leaky roofs, damp walls etc.,	23	23
Defective fireplaces.	17	11
Defective Outbuildings	9	6
Defective Manhole covers -	2	2
" Water closets	4	4
" Sash cords.	25	19
" Wallplaster.	11	11
Offensive accumulations.	2	2
Defective ceilings.	3	3
" Foodstores.	33	27
" Airgrates.	34	34

SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED.

		After Letter or Interview	After Stat. Notice	TOTAL
Sanitary Conveniences.	Privies abolished... ...	–	–	–
	" repaired	7	–	7
	Privy ashpits abolished	14	–	14
	" " roofed or repaired	–	–	–
	Pail closets abolished ...	–	–	–
	Water Closets provided ...	13	–	13
	Water Closets repaired ...	9	–	9
	Sanitary bins provided ...	9	–	9
	" " renewed ...	15	–	15
Drainage.	New drains constructed (other than new houses)	10	–	10
	Drains repaired or reconstructed	10	–	10
	Additional gullies provided	19	–	19
	Old gullies replaced,	7	–	7
	Scullery sinks provided.	18	–	18
	" waste pipes repaired.	4	–	4
	" " " trapped	–	–	–
	Yards repaired or reconstructed	1	–	1

Water Supply.

Sources closed or discontinued... – No.of houses affected... –

New services provided..... 2 No.of houses affected..... 2

RIVERS POLLUTION:-

Cases detected.....–..... Particulars.....–.....

Remedied.....–..... -do-.....–.....

S.D. Works Provided..9.. -do-..Privately owned septic tanks complete with filter beds.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT 1919.
INFESTATION ORDER 1943.

The Council continue to operate the powers under the above Act and Order as delegated from the County Council.

The works of deratisation is executed by trained personnel who, from time to time receive refresher courses in the methods of rodine destruction

The Council's 17 sewage works and two refuse tips are regularly and methodically serviced with the resultant absence, in any of these works of infestation of any magnitude. A not, inconsiderable number of farms and agricultural business' have contracts with the War Agricultural Executive Committee for the servicing of their estates and property.

CAMPING SITES.

There are no camping sites within the area. Four modern caravans have been licensed for a period of twelve months.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Ninety one samples of milk were taken and submitted for examination as set out below.

Out of 89 samples of undesignated milk submitted to the County Laboratory, Newburn.

50	Satisfied the Methylene Blue Test.			
8	Decolourised under		5½	hours.
4	"	"	4½	"
6	"	"	4	"
2	"	"	3½	"
19	"	"	3	"

Of eighty two samples submitted to the test for Tuberculosis seventy six were reported as showing Tuberculosis NOT FOUND, four were inconclusive, and in two, Tuberculosis was PRESENT. The animals were slaughtered and subsequent samples from these sources proved negative.

FOOD INSPECTION.

UNSOUND FOOD.		Surrendered	Seized	Legal Proceedings.
1. Beef (Home Killed)	sts.	31	–	–
2. Beef (Imported)	"	6	–	–
3. Mutton (Home Killed"		–	–	–
4. Mutton (Imported)		–	–	–
5. Pork.		–	–	–
6. Game.	lbs	–	–	–
7. Poultry.	"	–	–	–
8. Fish.	"	–	–	–
9. Fruit (lbs.)		21	–	–
10. Canned Goods (tins)		59	–	–
11. Bacon	lbs.	–	–	–
12. Cheese	"	–	–	–
13. Butter.	"	6½	–	–
14. Lard.	"	–	–	–
15. Eggd.		–	–	–
16. Other Foods.				
Condensed Milk 16 oz. tins,		56	–	–
Split peas.	lbs	6	–	–
Cake Mixture	"	6	–	–

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER. 1926.

Section 6 (1) and (4)

Number of Cowkeepers (registered) in district	– Tuberculin Tested	10
	Accredited	24
	Undesignated	81
		115

Approximate number of cows kept.		4,300
No. of cows supplied with water by Newcastle & Gateshead Water Co.,	Approx.,	1,000
No. of other cattle supplied with water by Newcastle & Gateshead Water Co.	"	3,500
Total No. of cattle other than dairy cows in the area.	"	109,000

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Year Ending 31st. December, 1947.

	No.of Inspections during year.	No.of Defects or Contraventions of Bye-Laws.	No.Outstanding from previous year.	No remedied after letter or interview	No.of informal Notices served.	Defects remedied there after	In progress or being dealt with.
HOUSING.							
Structural Defects.	956	503	-	446	15	43	14
Defective Foodstore	21	33	2	35	-	-	-
Dampness	37	12	-	8	4	4	-
Overcrowding.	4	1	-	1	-	-	-
Nuisances.	157	119	-	-	35	102	17
WATER SUPPLY.							
Insufficient)	34	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unsatisfactory)		4	-	4	-	-	-
DRAINAGE							
Insufficient)		-	-	-	-	-	-
Defective)	59	39	-	39	-	-	-
SANITARY CONVENIENCES.							
Insufficient) Defective.)	13	4	-	4	-	-	-
Shops, foodstores etc.,	83	5	-	4	-	-	1
Dairies, Cowsheds & Milkshops	405	17	-	17	-	-	-
Slaughterhouses.	All animals slaughtered in Government Abattoirs N/C & Morpeth.						
Tents, Vans etc.,	42	2	-	2	-	-	-
Offensive Trades.	68	7	-	7	-	-	-
Workshops & Workplaces.	75	3	-	3	-	-	-
Keeping of Animals	13	1	-	1	-	-	-
Insan. Ashpits & Receptacles	31	5	-	3	-	-	2
Ashpits improperly used.	12	3	-	3	-	-	-
Offensive accumulations	7	2	-	2	-	-	-
Smoke nuisances	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Petrol Stores.	Under control of Engineer and Surveyor.						
TOTAL -	2017	760	2	579	54	149	34

HOUSING

HOUSES COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR.	With State Assistance	Un-aided	Total
(a) By Local Authority:			
Permanent	16		16
Temporary	10 converted army huts		10
(b) By other bodies:			
Permanent	Nil	11	11
Temporary			

REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or its officers. ...49...

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

Proceedings under Section 9, 10 & 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

For the sub-sections A, B, and D "Nil" returns have been supplied.

(C) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 Housing Act. 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 16

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. 2

I am,
Mr. Chairman, Lady, & Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,

ERIC. WM. STRACHAN. M.R.S.I. M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector.

Coffins